



MI-CW1811

Michigan Crop Weather

May 2, 2011

Another, Very Wet Week

One day was suitable for fieldwork during the week ending May 1, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation ranged from 1.18 inches to 1.73 inches in the Upper Peninsula and 1.96 to 2.58 inches in the Lower Peninsula. Temperatures ranged from 1 degree below normal to 1 degree above normal in the Upper Peninsula and from normal to 2 degrees above normal in the Lower Peninsula. Stormy and wet weather, kept field activities at a standstill again this week. “If April showers bring May flowers, we will have a lot of them,” stated one reporter in southwest Lower Peninsula. Some drying took place Saturday and Sunday, but many saturated fields will need more consecutive drying days to be ready to be worked.

Field Crops

Rain and cooler weather continued to delay field crop growers. Saturated soil and flooded areas kept farmers out of fields and progress to a minimum. Mid-Michigan is about 5-6 days behind normal GDD accumulation since March 1 according to Michigan State Extension. Powdery mildew was found on **wheat**. There will probably be some losses in wheat planted on heavier ground due to ponding. “Wheat on well drained soil looks good, as does **alfalfa**, although growth has been slow due to cool weather,” said one reporter from Lapeer County. Sugarbeet acreage planted before the rain a few weeks ago looks good. **Rye** was also coming in nicely. Early planted **oats** have yet to emerge.

Soil moisture for week ending 05/01/11

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	0	0	21	79
Subsoil	0	1	31	68

Crop condition for week ending 05/01/11

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Pasture	5	12	31	46	6
Winter Wheat	2	4	24	52	18

Fruit

The shortage of growing degree days has curtailed tree and small fruit development. Phenological stages in east Michigan were about ten days behind normal. There has been only slight insect activity, but extremely wet conditions have fostered diseases. Growers pruned during the week, but they will have to wait for soils to dry before doing much new planting. Some winter damage was found in blueberry fields in the Ottawa-Allegan County area and in vinifera grape vineyards in the southwest. There have, however, been no significant spring freezes. **Apples** were at green tip in the north and from quarter-inch to half inch in the south. **Grapes** were at scale crack in the northwest and early swell in the southwest. **Tart** and **sweet cherries** ranged from early side green to bud burst. **Blueberries** were at bud burst. **Peaches** were at bud burst to pink calyx. **Strawberries** had new leaves emerging from the crown.

Vegetables

Wet weather was again prominent this week, delaying the planting of vegetable crops. Warm, dry weather is needed to dry soils. **Asparagus** spears have begun to appear, but harvest is still a week or two away. **Carrot** planting is progressing slowly. There were also reports of **cabbage** and **sweet corn** plantings this past week.

Crop progress for week ending 05/01/11

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Barley, planted	3	2	71	38
Barley, emerged	1	1	37	14
Oats, planted	17	14	89	71
Oats, emerged	5	2	61	33
Sugarbeets, planted	17	13	100	89

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 05/01/11 ¹

Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2011	2010	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	64	27		57	160		1.21	1.71	3.19	3.61		
Marquette	64	29		54	149		1.78	2.31	4.00	4.54		
Stephenson	63	28		68	193		1.78	2.44	4.25	4.48		
Western UP	66	22	-1	56	164	81	1.18	1.60	3.15	3.53	2.43	3.37
Cornell	63	31		42	170		1.64	2.18	4.03	4.34		
Sault St Marie	63	31		42	152		2.69	3.12	4.99	5.53		
Eastern UP	63	30	1	43	150	41	1.73	2.27	4.26	4.67	2.56	3.01
Beulah	68	34		89	200		2.03	3.33	6.69	7.06		
Lake City	63	33		81	193		2.31	3.26	5.47	6.18		
Old Mission	64	32		73	204		1.93	2.59	4.04	4.42		
Pellston	68	26		81	196		2.27	3.35	5.10	5.42		
Northwest	68	26	0	76	190	102	2.03	2.89	4.81	5.17	2.80	2.61
Alpena	77	28		67	178		2.91	4.23	6.18	6.62		
Houghton Lake	71	34		95	210		2.54	3.85	5.50	6.22		
Rogers City	76	30		42	166		1.04	2.21	4.23	4.60		
Northeast	77	28	1	73	194	92	2.38	3.69	5.47	6.14	2.65	2.76
Fremont	64	35		102	232		2.04	3.29	4.43	5.20		
Hart	65	35		92	205		1.74	2.82	3.70	4.23		
Muskegon	67	37		103	227		1.93	3.65	4.37	5.29		
West Central	67	29	0	96	217	125	2.00	3.23	4.21	4.89	3.28	2.67
Alma	67	36		90	227		2.61	4.19	4.59	5.79		
Big Rapids	63	34		79	227		3.52	5.77	8.72	8.72		
Central	68	34	1	91	229	140	2.46	3.94	5.13	5.69	3.23	2.79
Bad Axe	72	35		95	216		2.27	4.41	5.60	7.05		
Pigeon	71	34		99	221		2.09	3.74	5.45	5.86		
Saginaw	73	38		116	246		2.54	4.43	4.82	6.37		
Standish	73	33		92	222		3.31	4.87	5.65	7.13		
East Central	73	33	2	95	223	133	2.50	4.27	5.31	6.33	2.66	2.63
Fennville	67	36		113	260		2.34	4.08	5.29	5.50		
Grand Rapids	67	37		131	283		3.11	5.70	6.61	7.28		
Holland	67	38		160	284		2.56	4.30	5.34	5.82		
South Bend, IN	69	37		163	293		3.27	4.78	7.12	7.45		
Watervliet	67	37		126	272		2.52	4.41	5.86	6.09		
Southwest	70	34	0	129	274	158	2.58	4.44	5.75	6.09	3.52	3.01
Belding	66	35		106	244		2.97	5.40	6.32	6.71		
Coldwater	72	35		132	279		1.42	3.13	4.84	4.94		
Lansing	72	35		120	269		1.78	4.28	5.39	5.60		
South Central	73	34	1	117	261	159	2.07	4.09	5.40	5.66	3.24	2.92
Detroit	74	38		142	289		2.06	4.25	6.11	6.26		
Flint	74	36		135	260		1.75	4.04	5.12	5.69		
Romeo	71	33		119	234		1.77	3.15	4.32	4.75		
Tipton	72	38		131	262		2.78	4.56	6.47	6.59		
Toledo, OH	73	36		128	291		1.94	3.59	4.91	5.15		
Southeast	74	32	2	130	269	147	1.96	3.72	5.08	5.32	3.27	2.85

¹ Issued by the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.